India prefers the multilateral to the regional approach. Our efforts have been to strengthen multilateralism during the Uruguay Round as it is believed that non discriminatory trade offers the greatest promise for expansion of world trade.

Trade Negotiations in the Context of Dunkel Draft

343. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the latest stage of trade negotiations ; and

(b) what extent the Dunkel Draft affects the interests of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Uruguay Round Negotiations have entered the final phase. According to the present schedule negotiations are to be comcluded by December 15, 1993.

As the Dunkel proposals are still being negotiated a final assessment of the implications is premature at this stage. However, an analysis made be the government indicates that some of the positive features of the Dunkel text are :

(1) It seeks to strengthen the multilateraltrading system by providing a detailed framework of rules to govern international trade. In many aspects, these rules provide for special dispensaiton for developing countries.

(2) It provides for reduction of subsidies and other trade barriers in the field of agrculture, at enlarging global market access and better price realization for agricultural products.

(3) It provides for the integration of textiles and clothing into the GATT trading framework within a finite time frame of ten years.

(4) The proposed agreement on Trade In Services provides a multilateral framework for negotiating concessions, inter alia, in the area of movement of personnel.

(5) In TRIPs in provides for a ten year transition period for the introduction of product patents in the case of countries which are presently not granting such patents in certain areas.

Some of the negative features are :—

(1) The rules on anti-dumping have not been improved sufficienally.

(2) In textiles the phase-out process is back loaded.

(3) In the text on agriculture there are certain ambiguities which need to be clarified.

(4) In TRIPs, in the area of patents sufficient flexiblity has not been provided in respect of compulsory licensing particularly for food and pharmaceuticals. The text is also not clear on the treatment of importation as working of patents. Furthermore, while the text allows exclusion from patents of plants and animals, it mandates patenting of micro organisms.

Changes Sought in Dunkel Draft

344. SHRI N. E. BELARAM :
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sought certain changes and modifications in the Dunkel Draft to suit Indian Interests and concerns especially the interests of the two focus groups the farmers and the poor ;

(b) if so, what precise changes are sought to be interoduced by Government in